

# Script Talk



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# Alberhill Coal & Clay—Edkins # 36

## *The Only Coal Mine Scrip from California*

*Scrip Talk*  
1818 Harper Rd  
Beckley WV 25801





# National Scrip Collectors Association

The **National Scrip Collectors Association** was officially organized on October 21, 1972 in Fayetteville WV. The objectives and purposes of the organization are to promote the collection of coal company scrip and related tokens, to cultivate good relations between collectors of scrip tokens, and to encourage the study and research of the history of coal mining companies as it relates to the usage of scrip tokens. Twice a year the club sponsors scrip show where its members can buy sell and trade scrip and other items of interest to the history of mining.

In the late 1970's the scope of the **NCSA** was broadened to include tokens from other industries; including lumber, phosphate, hard rock, limestone, copper, gold & silver, brick & clay, cotton & textile, paper, iron & steel, agricultural, and others.

The first issue of *Scrip Talk* was published in 1965, and it continues today as the official newsletter for members of the **NSCA**. It exists not only as a source of information for its members, but as a forum where they can share items of interest.



## 2005 NSCA Officers

Steve Cawood • President 344 Tennessee Ave Pineville KY 40977

John Podgursky • Vice-President 24 Hemlock Lane Ellysburg, PA 47112

James Singleton • Vice-President PO Box 41 Hughston, WV 25110

Corkey Snodgress • Vice-President POB 142 MacArthur, WV 25873

Crawford Blakeman, Sr. • Treasurer PO Box 536 Middlesboro, KY 40965

Kevin Traube • Secretary/Editor 1818 Harper Rd Beckley, WV 25801

## Join the NSCA!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Receive six issues of Scrip Talk, including information on the club's semi-annual scrip shows.

Scrip Talk 1818 Harper Rd Beckley WV 25801 [nsca@coalmemories.com](mailto:nsca@coalmemories.com)



# Letter from the President

I am pleased to extend greetings to our membership in the National Scrip Collectors Association (NSCA), as well as to any and all scrip collectors with whom we can share our message. Together with the Executive Committee, Immediate Past President, Walter "Doc" Fletcher (P.O. Box 618, Pikeville, KY. 41502), Vice-Presidents John Podgurski (24 Hemlock Lane, Elysburg, PA. 17824), Jim Singleton (44 Joshua Lane, Huston, W. Va. 25110) and Harold "Corky" Snodgrass (P.O. Box 142, MacArthur, W. VA. 25873) Treasurer, Crawford Blakeman (P.O. Box 536, Middlesboro, KY. 40965) and Secretary, Kevin Traube (1820 Harper Rd., Beckley, W. VA. 25801), I invite all of you to help us reinvigorate the NSCA. In this brief space, I want to highlight some issues and opportunities before us as we proceed in this effort.

First, however, allow me a brief (difficult for lawyers!) digression for those of you who do not know me. I am a lawyer in Pineville, Kentucky, a county seat in the Southern Appalachian coalfields, near the Tennessee & Virginia borders. I received my first introduction to scrip collecting as a boy traveling the Tri-State area (Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia) with an uncle who was a salesman for a Harlan mine supply house. When he called on the many commissaries doing business in the early 1950s, I became fascinated with the small coins that were unlike those I received in my weekly allowance. The intrigue lingered, and I joined NSCA in the 1970s (Membership No. 300) as a young adult. Today, my collection focuses on the scrip of Bell and Harlan Counties in Kentucky, and the surrounding area.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Ours is the only truly national organi-

zation dedicated solely to fostering the hobby of scrip collecting, and as such, should be a thriving organization with a large membership. However, in recent years we have found our membership waning due to some now resolved internal disputes. From this day forward, I encourage our membership to join me and the Executive Committee in placing our priority on the common good of the organization in order to re-build our club. In addition, as our new and improved newsletter goes out and our pending website is online, we anticipate that others will become interested in scrip collecting. We extend a hearty welcome and sincere hope that those collectors will join NCSA.

In order to facilitate the expansion of our membership, I have asked John Singleton (2108 Coatsdale Ln, Matthews N.C. 28104) to serve as Chair of the Membership Committee. John will insert a data form in *SCRIP TALK* for each of you to fill out and return to the address indicated. An expiration date will be added to the mailing labels and will also serve as a dues reminder for members. As soon as this comprehensive list is completed, it will be made available to the membership.

## NEWSLETTER

I extend my apologies to all of you who have not received the newsletter or other information. In order to correct this, please fill out the new data form mentioned above or send us a note with your full, correct address to John, and the omission will be corrected. This will also assist your Executive Committee in bringing our records current. I realize this information will not be received by those who are not on our mailing list, so if you as a recipient know of folks who are not receiving the newsletter, please give them a copy of the data form to return to

*Continued on the next page.*



us. Often, the most effective form of communication is still word of mouth, so please lend us your assistance in shoring up our list. This also leads me to our next area of discussion which can be a major factor in rectifying this situation.

### WEBSITE

John Singleton, our resident computer wizard extraordinaire, is also developing a website for NCSA. This certainly will increase our visibility and allow interested folks to learn more about the hobby and consider membership. We will not sell the membership list for commercial use, but hope that those who are club members can use it to contact one another and facilitate renewed interest in the organization. It will also allow neophytes to contact folks for mentoring in this unique hobby.

### OTHER COLLECTIONS

In the publications area, I have asked John Podgurski to begin working with Kenneth Nester (102 Lost Lane, Pearisburg, Va. 24134-2127), on formulating a **scatter-tag** book for publication by NSCA. Many of us have collected some of these, but few of us have any informed idea as to how many different varieties there are, their rarity, or value. If you have expertise in this area, please contact John or Kenneth. I'm sure they will appreciate your input. We appreciate John and Kenneth for stepping forward to accomplish this task.

### PUBLICATION PROPOSAL

One of the first publications on scrip was a hardback book entitled SCRIP compiled by Stuart E. Brown, Jr., of Virginia (1978, Virginia Book Company, Berryville, Va.), now out-of-print. This is probably the most authoritative book ever printed on the subject. It needs to be revised and re-printed. I have now gathered the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee in support of my

request that David "Dave" E. Schenkman (P.O. Box 366, Bryant Town, MD. 20617) take on this responsibility. We will need to acquire publication rights from the publisher and the support of Mr. Stuart, or his family. If there is anyone who would like to work with Dave on this project, please let me know. This resource is one that is needed and will be widely used. Dave is the right person to oversee this project with his depth and breadth of knowledge.

### SPRING MEETING

Our very own Corky Snodgrass is scouting out a location for our Spring Meeting in Beckley, W. VA, and if anyone is interested in serving on a planning committee for this event, please contact me. We want each event to build upon the last one, and to this end, we need your ideas. Please contact me if you are willing to set aside some time for planning an agenda, auction, displays, awards, etc. The spring & fall events are our opportunity to showcase scrip collecting as a hobby, provide trading opportunities and discuss the history of coal mining in the process.

Finally, I invite all of you to call or write to your officers (phone numbers and addresses will be printed in each issue of *SCRIP TALK* and on the website), with your ideas, suggestions, and yes, your constructive criticism. This organization can only thrive through open communication, and I and your Executive Committee certainly invite your responses.

I look forward to serving you in this exciting adventure that preserves an integral piece of history.

Sincerely yours,

*STEVE CAWOOD*

*344 Tennessee Avenue  
Pineville, KY. 40977-1732*



Thank you for bidding. Hope you find something here that you need.

## JACK CHAPMAN'S THIRTY-DAY SCRIP AUCTION

**Starting Date 11/10/05**

**Ending Date 12/10/05**

Lot #	Scrip #	Company and Town	R rating	Condition	Min. bid
1	VA 1611-D500	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Leona Mines, VA	R-7	fine	\$22.00
2	VA 1611-D	Blue Diamond Coal, Leona Mines, VA 100, 50, 25, 10, 05, 01	6-pc set	fine	\$55.00
3	VA 333-E500	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-6	fine	\$15.00
4	VA 333-G100	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-3	fine	\$5.00
5	VA 333-D50	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-6	fine	\$10.00
6	VA 333-D25	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-6	fine	\$10.00
7	VA 333-D1	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-3	fine	\$5.00
8	VA 333-G1	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, VA	R-1	fine	\$3.00
9	VA 2807-G500	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Toms Creek, VA	R-6	fine	\$15.00
10	VA 819-D100	Wise Coal & Coke Co., Dorchester, Va	R-8	fine	\$25.00
11	VA 291-D500	Gibson Fuel Co., Inc., Blackwood, VA	R-7	fine	\$15.00
12	VA 291-C	Gibson Fuel Co., Inc., Blackwood, VA 100, 50, 25, 10, 05	5-pc set	fine	\$15.00
13	VA 2495-G100	Old Virginia Coal Co. (St. Charles, VA)	R-9	fine	\$35.00
14	VA 2205-D100	Penn-Lee Coal Corporation (Pennington Gap, VA)	R-7	fine	\$20.00
15	VA 2205-C10b	Lee Coal Company, Pennington Gap, VA	R-5	fine	\$8.00
16	VA 2495-I5	Tomlinson Coal Corp., St. Charles, VA	R-6	fine	\$10.00
17	VA 2495-T500	Benedict Coal Corporation, St. Charles, VA	R-6	fine	\$12.00
18	VA 2495-V500	The Virginia-Lee Company, St. Charles, VA	R-7	fine	\$15.00
19	VA 2255-M100	Pocahontas Fuel Co., Inc. (Pocahontas, VA)	R-9	fine	\$40.00
20	VA 2395-A100	Field Scott (Richlands, VA)	R-7	fine	\$18.00
21	VA 1118-E1	Glamorgan Coals, Inc. (Glamorgan, VA)	R-6	fine	\$8.00
22	VA 1118-G1	Peerless Coal Corporation, Glamorgan, VA	R-6	fine	\$8.00
23	KY 2365-A100	Coleman Fuel Company, Red Bird, KY (Picture)	R-6	fine	\$15.00
24	KY 2695-A10	Barker St. Creek Coal Mining Co., St. Creek, KY	R-9	fine	\$30.00
25	KY 745-A1	Cairnes Mining Co. Davisburg, KY	R-7	fine	\$12.00
26	KY 1919-A25	Wallsend Mercantile Co., Inc. (Mine Station, KY)	R-5	fine	\$5.00
27	KY 3041-A500	Jellico Splint Coal Co. (Williamsburg, KY)	R-4	mint	\$10.00
28	KY 3041-B50	Jellico Splint Coal Co. (Williamsburg, KY)	R-4	very fine	\$5.00
29	KY 2228-A50	C. Cordell & Co., Pine Knot, KY	R-7	very fine	\$17.00
30	KY 2281-B100	Premium Coals, Inc., Premium, KY	R-6	fine	\$10.00
31	KY 3009-G25	Gorman-Pursiful Coal Co., Whitesburg, KY	R-7	fine	\$15.00
32	KY 1911-A5	The Holbrook Company, Mill Stone, KY	R-10	fine	\$50.00
33	KY U/L Company	Wheatcroft Coal & Mining Co.(Wheatcroft, KY)(Sm. Drill Hole)	U/L	fine	\$50.00
34	KY 841-E100	Turner Elkhorn Coal Co. (Drift, KY)	R-7	fine	\$18.00
35	KY 1637-C25	Blue Beaver Elkhorn Mining Co., Ligon, KY	R-9	fine	\$30.00
36	KY 1637-C10	Blue Beaver Elkhorn Mining Co., Ligon, KY	R-9	fine	\$25.00
37	KY 1089-B50	Standard Elkhorn Collieries, Garrett, KY	R-7	fine	\$12.00
38	KY 1089-B10	Standard Elkhorn Collieries, Garrett, KY	R-7	fine	\$12.00
39	KY 1089-B5	Standard Elkhorn Collieries, Garrett, KY	R-7	fine	\$12.00
40	KY 2809-A100	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Toner, KY	R-3	fine	\$5.00
41	KY 1540-A1	Meem Haskins Coal, Kodak, KY	R-5	fine	\$7.00
42	KY 1255-C1	Harvey Coal Corporation, Harveyton, KY	R-6	fine	\$10.00
43	KY 1219-A25	Happy Coal Co., Inc., Happy, KY (Sm. Drill Hole)	R-8	fine	\$22.00
44	KY 2541-A25	Scuddy Coal Company, Inc., Scuddy, KY	R-9	fine	\$30.00
45	KY 571-A	Clemons Coal Co., Clemons, KY 100, 50, 25, 10, 05	5-pc set	fine	\$75.00

Send bids to: Jack Chapman, 166 Chapman Rd., Shady Springs, WV 25918 (304) 763-5048

Lot# 97 Amount of Bid \$6.10 Lot# 18 Amount of Bid \$17.10

Lot# 13 Amount of Bid \$37.10 Lot# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Bid \_\_\_\_\_


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scrip and invoice will be mailed to winning bidders. Payment must be sent by return mail.**





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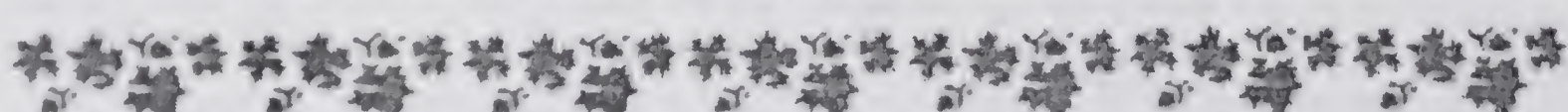
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 342-8081

Fax: (304) 342-9401

Web: [www.kanawhacoin.com](http://www.kanawhacoin.com)

E-Mail: [kcs@charterinternet.com](mailto:kcs@charterinternet.com)





## NSCA Membership Directory Update

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I Collect: \_\_\_\_\_

*The NSCA is updating our membership directory. To ensure that everyone's information is correct please fill out this form and return it to:*

John Singleton 2108 Coatsdale Lane Matthews, NC 28104

*Or e-mail to:* bigredmachine1978@yahoo.com



### Appalachian Scrip Club Fall Show

Perry Memorial United Methodist  
Church, Shady Spring

Saturday, November 12 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

### Our *NEW* New Finds Editor

Danny Clark  
PO Box 13 Hugheston, WV 25110  
Danny8995@yahoo.com

### A Request from Corkey Snodgrass

Though he enjoys and encourages visits from all his scrip collecting friends, Corkey requests that you give him a call before you come by.

On his last visit to Corkey's house, Doug Tolley drove over the mail box. No sooner did Corkey get it fixed then Jim Singleton dropped by and knocked it over again!

Corkey will be glad to have you come visit—he'd just like a chance to take down the box and hide it, first!



# A History of Scrip

By William Fugera

*This is the third and final installment in a series of articles by NSCA member Bill Fugera, chronicling the history of scrip and examining it's impact on those who issued it and those who used it. Contact Scrip Talk if you missed any of the previous articles and would like copies sent to you.*

While Scrip was usually specialized to one company in a particular community, many coal-mining companies had mines in different regions. Their scrip was good in all the different locations where their mines operated. As the scrip using communities gradually came to experience more extensive commercial relations with each other, their localized scrips became interchangeable. Even some independent stores accepted coal company scrip.

Given the laws against the private printing or coining of money by the ACTS of 1862 and 1864, one may wonder how scrip could have been legally issued and used. The key is the word 'intended' in the laws. The courts ruled that scrip was not intended to circulate as money: first, because it was redeemable only in merchandise until payday; second, because it resembled money only superficially and was clearly distinguishable from standard money.

The coin under the court scrutiny was a standard 50-cent piece. Any token that was redeemable in lawful money on demand was construed to be illegal, and whether the token in question was coin or pasteboard did not matter.

The extent of scrip use has many temporal, geographical, and industrial dimensions. Its most notable occurrence in the twentieth century was in the coal mining regions of West Virginia, in part because the state government passed a wide open scrip law some time before 1925. However, it was used extensively in other states as well. The Tennessee Coal and Iron and Railway Company, for example, ordered 547,500 pieces between 1933 and 1937 from the Ingle Schierloh Company of Dayton, Ohio. Another source lists 20,000 coal company stores in the United States, Canada, and Mexico all of which used scrip between 1903 and 1958. Numismatic records indicate that scrip was also used extensively in several other industries-fishing canneries, agriculture (to pay crop pickers), fruit canneries, logging and lumbering companies, and paper companies.

Trantow's index lists over 1,100 companies that issued scrip currency in 40 states.) One scrip numismatist cites a Chicago newspaper of 1845 that regularly quoted the discounted prices of coal scrip, city scrip, canal scrip, railroad scrip, Michigan scrip, Indiana state scrip and Indiana land scrip as well as the notes of private and chartered banks. Private businesses issuing such scrip numbered in the thousands. The use of paper scrip was much wider than the use of coin scrip. Only a small amount of



the paper has survived, therefore the extent of scrip use must have been much greater than the vestiges in current metallic collections would indicate.

The study of historic scrip issue has significant implications. First, no one had any incentive to leave scrip behind for monetary researchers to count or to analyze. Users of such currency would not regard it as a store of value for any time longer than the period between paydays. Suppliers, to whom the scrip was an outstanding demand obligation, would redeem it first if they liquidated, merged, or closed down their enterprises. In addition everyone who used it and benefited from it was aware of its questionable legality. Archival records of its outstanding quantities, therefore, are almost nonexistent.

The coal mining scrip episode adds to the total scrip experience for a number of reasons. First, it lasted for over 50 years, so it was not just a temporary happenstance. Second, it appeared in a wide range of independent communities. In West Virginia alone, almost 900 coal companies employing about 120,000 miners issued scrip in one form or another. In other areas of Appalachia - southern Virginia, eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee and southwestern Pennsylvania - the experience was similar. Third, scrip's tenure was not dependent on the previous existence of standard legal tender money. True, the coal company was bound to redeem the scrip on payday, but this guarantee was only a flourish that enabled scrip issuers to

avoid violating the proscriptive laws against the issue of private moneys. As it was, many children living in coal mining communities did not see a dollar of real money until they grew up and left the area.

A fourth important result of the scrip system was its reflective emphasis on the returns to the capital structure of the payments system.

In the scrip system, the money was supplied endogenously: the coal company banks, the borrowing miners, and the scrip suppliers were all parts of an economy of private ownership. Scrip money was not dependent on any outside money, but was produced under the same conditions and incentives as any other common commodity. The mining companies rather than the workers produced the scrip because in working without wages until payday, the workers were implicitly extending credit to the company. Scrip issue was a means of clearing this debt before the regular payday.

Both the companies and the workers shared in the seigniorage returns from scrip - the difference between the face value of the coins and what it cost to produce them. While the scrip system was small scale and had a low profile, the government could ignore it because it posed no threat to the government's monopoly over the production of money.

*Send your article ideas to:  
Scrip Talk 1818 Harper Rd Beckley, WV 25801  
plan9@charter.net*



----- **N.S.C.A. FREE ADS FOR MEMBERS** -----

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. **You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK.**

All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. **SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343 or E-mail Steve@Ratliff.com {Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.}**

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WEST VIRGINIA COAL TOKENS \$4.00 EACH OR 3/\$10.00. Also, KY coal tokens \$5.00 each and TN and AL tokens \$8.00 each. Trades considered - 400 token supply. Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220 +

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WANTED - ANY SCRIP FROM WISCOAL, KY 3071 WISCONSIN COAL CORP'N. Send price and description to: Charles Miller, 200W-900N, Wawaka, IN 46794 (502) 458-2570

I HAVE A COAL OR LUMBER TOKEN YOU WANT - Do you have a North Carolina token to trade? I will also buy your NC token if you prefer. Bob King, 33 Cardinal Drive, Brevard, NC 28712 (828) 883-8028, tokenaddict@citcom.net

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